

# THE ROSSMOOR DEMOCRAT

VOLUME 2016, ISSUE 1 M. DAVIN & J. MELAUGH, CO-EDITORS JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2016

## President Patsy Sharaf's Message

### New Year's Resolutions

Here are my personal suggestions for New Year's resolutions for a few of our key public political figures:

- **Ben Carson:** Please resolve to spend a day with a docent, touring the NYC American Museum of Natural History, particularly the dinosaur fossil skeletons. Don't miss the Hall of Vertebrate Origins.
- **Donald Trump:** Please resolve to check with PolitiFact.com before uttering any more of your mythic blanket statements about life as we know it.
- **Jerry Brown:** As you move back into the Governor's Mansion, please resolve to give up your notion to move our water around the State as though you are God.
- **Carly Fiorina:** Please resolve to spend a weekend going over the books of Planned Parenthood before making any more inaccurate statements about their policies.



Even better, spend a weekend at one of their clinics.

- **Republican members of Congress:** Please resolve to watch the film *Merchants of Doubt*, about those who mistakenly cast doubt upon the realities of global warming. It's widely available; our DoR members watched it right here in Rossmoor last November.
- **John Roberts:** Please resolve to spend a weekend registering voters in Alabama to see exactly how fair our voting rights laws are for minorities.
- **Developers of the Rossmoor Shopping Plaza:** Please resolve, once and for all, to rid yourselves of plans for fire pits and bocce ball courts.

Readers, send us your political New Year's resolutions, and we'll print a few in the next issue.

Happy New Year to Everyone,

Patsy

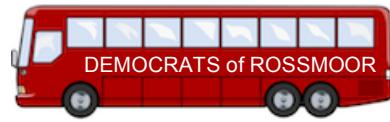
*"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." — Barack Obama*

### Table of Contents

President's Message .....	1	February 25 General Meeting/Dinner .....	4
Your DoR on the Move .....	2	Yea or Nay Report .....	5
Membership .....	2	Voter Registration Meeting .....	7
Membership Form.....	2	Finances .....	7
January 28 General Meeting .....	3	2016 DoR Board .....	7
Labor Factoids .....	3	Upcoming Events .....	8
About the Drought .....	4	February 25 Dinner RSVP Form .....	8

## Your DoR on the Move by Cindy Ware

On Saturday afternoon, January 30, seventeen DoR members will be attending the California Democratic Party Pre-Endorsement Conference for Region 2 in Fairfield. We are entitled to the most delegates of any club in the region based on our large, active membership.



Pre-Endorsement Conferences throughout the state are the first determining step for the California Democratic Party's pre-primary endorsement process for candidates to the CA Assembly, CA Senate, and US Congress. In years when there are several Democratic candidates for an office, registered Democrats in our club vote for their choice, and then the conference delegates endorse the club's selection. However, at this time, there is just one Democratic candidate for each office: Cheryl Cook-Kallio for CA Assembly, incumbent Steve Glazer for CA Senate, and Representative Mark DeSaulnier for US Congress.

Our delegates will have the opportunity to meet the candidates and hear their brief speeches. In addition we get to share our observations—as well as wine and snacks!—on the bus ride home. The DoR board thanks those who volunteered to take part in this step in hands-on democracy.

## Membership

- The Democrats of Rossmoor have 685 people on our mailing list, which includes 10 complementary to political figures.
- We have 513 current members, including 193 who have already paid for 2016.
- At the end of 2014 we had 619 on our mailing list; 414 were current members, though some of those were married couples. Over 2015 we have separated them into separate listings.
- 95% of the DoR's income is membership fees (based on actuals as of December 2015).
- **If you have not yet paid your dues for 2016, please use the form below to do so!**



### Membership Dues DUE NOW

Membership runs January through December and costs \$20 per person.

Check One:  New member  Returning member

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print.*

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a registered voter at this address? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a registered Democrat? \_\_\_\_\_

*(We need this information for the Democratic Party, Region Two)*

Can you occasionally volunteer for any of the following?

Voter Registration  Phoning on behalf of Democratic Party candidates  
 Putting together mailings  Event set-up

Place your check (made out to Democrats of Rossmoor) and this form in an envelope and:

- Leave it in the Democrats' mailbox at Gateway or bring the form/check to any meeting.
- OR mail it to Sue De Carlo, 901 Terra California Dr., #6, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

## January 28 General Meeting



Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1021 Contra Costa County Chapter President Dan Jameyson will speak at the Event Center on Thursday, January 28. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., with Jameyson's presentation at

7. Also at 6 p.m. is the Democrats of Rossmoor's Town Square, where candidates and representatives of progressive issues have informational tables for attendees.

SEIU Local 1021 was founded in 2007 when 10 local unions came together in Northern California to form one larger union. Describing itself as "a true 21st century union," Local 1021 claims 54,000 members representing public service workers in cities, counties, courts, schools, private non-profits, special districts, health care, and nursing. In discussing the local's purpose online, Jameyson wrote that "*Health insurance CEOs, and the politicians in their pockets, want to give us a raw deal so they can benefit from million-dollar bonuses and tax breaks costing millions to local governments. We need to put our heads together and organize, using our strength in numbers to counter their strength in dollars.*"

The SEIU describes itself as a labor union representing almost 1.9 million workers in over 100 occupations in the United States (including Puerto Rico) and Canada, focusing on organizing workers in three sectors: health care (over half of members work in the health care field), including hospital, home care and nursing home workers; public services (local and state government employees); and property services (including janitors, security officers, and food service workers). It was founded in 1921 in Chicago as the Building Services Employees Union.



The SEIU has over 150 local branches, and strongly supports Democratic candidates. It spent \$28 million supporting Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election, and, in 2012, was the top outside spender on Democratic campaigns, reporting almost \$70 in campaign donations. It supports increasing the minimum wage, including wage increases for fast food workers.

This presentation is free and open to everyone. There will be ample time for questions. *For additional information, call Jane Walter at 945-1429.*

## Labor Factoids from [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org)

- 1886—American Federation of Labor is founded.
- 1913—Woodrow Wilson takes office as President and appoints the first Secretary of Labor, William B. Wilson of the Mine Workers.
- 1935—The National Labor Relations Act and Social Security Act are passed.
- 1943—The CIO forms the first political action committee to get out the union vote for President Roosevelt.
- 1946—Largest strike wave in U.S. history
- 2008—The AFL-CIO endorses Senator Barack Obama for President. During the campaign the AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions mobilize 250,000 volunteers who make 76 million phone calls, knock on 14 million doors, send out 57 million pieces of mail, and distribute 29 million leaflets at worksites.

## About the Drought...Did You Know?

From Jeanne Thomas's *Report to the Water Conservation Committee*:

- Once the driver of California's economy, agriculture "now only produces 2% of our GDP, while using 80% of our water."
- 9% of the 80% of water used for agriculture goes to almonds, "enough to supply the yearly household needs of about two-thirds of California's population."
- "California produces 82% of the world's almonds...70% of California almonds are sold overseas, making it the #1 export."



## February 25 General Meeting/Dinner

DoR's February Dinner Meeting speaker will be **California State Water Resources Control Board Chair Felicia Marcus**. The Thursday, February 25, meeting will begin with a social hour at 5, followed by dinner at 6, and the presentation at 7. There's a sign-up form on the last page of this newsletter with information about how to make a reservation, due with payment by Friday, February 19. You can also pick up forms in DoR's mail slot at Gateway and at all DoR events.

Felicia Marcus was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the Board in 2012 and designated as Chair the following year. The Board implements both federal and state laws regarding drinking water and water quality and the State's water rights laws. It sets statewide water quality, drinking water, and water rights policy, hears appeals of local regional board water quality decisions, decides water rights disputes, and provides financial assistance to communities to upgrade water infrastructure.

The state water board and nine regional water boards protect water quality and allocate surface water rights. Its function is separate from the Department of Water Resources, which is responsible for the



management of water usage, including the delivery of water to two-thirds of California's population through the State Water Project.

Before her appointment to the Water Board, Marcus served in positions in government, the non-profit world, and the private sector. In government, she served as Regional Administrator of the U.S. EPA Region IX in the Clinton Administration, where she was known for her work in bringing unlikely allies together for environmental progress and for making the agency more responsive to local communities, particularly Indian tribes, communities of color, local governments, and agricultural and business interests. While at U.S. EPA, Marcus worked extensively on a range of environmental issues under EPA's jurisdiction, most notably in air quality, Bay-Delta water, tribal, and US-Mexico border issues.

Be sure to bring your questions to the meeting. Water and its management are very much at the forefront of state issues given the four-year drought, and allocations between agriculture and cities, and between senior and junior holders of water rights.

*Questions? Call Patsy Sharaf at 322-8926.*

## Yea or Nay Report by Sue De Carlo



In 2015 a total of 2,358 pieces of legislation were introduced in the California Legislature. I have reviewed the 807 that were passed and signed into law by Governor Brown. Taking a hard look at how our elected official voted in both the State Assembly and Senate reveals some interesting issues.

**Assemblywoman Catharine Baker** ran as a moderate Republican with special interests in education, the well being of children, and small businesses. She was sworn in to the Assembly on December 29, 2014, so we have her complete 2015 voting record. Baker was vice chair of the Committee on Higher Education and a member of the committees on Business and Professions, Privacy and Consumer Protection, and Transportation.

On issues of social welfare Baker appears to value commercial interests over those of individuals in almost every instance. One area where Baker's vote reflects a regard for the safety of individuals over business profits concerns the problems with construction of the Bay Bridge. Baker sponsored AB1284, which requires record keeping of all their meetings and activities as well as transparency from the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee and each individual member. In the past, no minutes were kept so there is no record of meetings between members and contractors.

In this writer's opinion, Assemblywoman Catharine Baker is a conservative Republican who votes her party's line consistently. I am therefore encouraged by the recently announced candidacy of Democratic challenger Cherl Cook-Kallio, former Mayor of Pleasanton and high school history teacher whose specialty is in government, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

**Democratic State Senator Steve Glazer's** campaign stressed his opposition to the BART strike and a desire to foster business opportunities in California. He took office on May 28, 2015, and serves on three Senate committees: Governmental Organization, Insurance, and Public Safety. Glazer's office states that he has voted with the Democratic caucus over 90% of the time.

Review of Glazer's votes reveals that in the first weeks after being sworn in he missed several votes on key issues. Glazer did not vote on SB 172, which affects the ability of high school seniors to graduate, and SB 788, which would end leasing of California coastal land for offshore drilling. These bills nevertheless passed the Senate without Glazer's vote. In this writer's opinion Glazer's votes reflect the positions he took during his campaign. I believe the voters are getting what they expected when they elected Steve Glazer.

The following chart reflects votes taken by Baker and Glazer on bills that have become law, except where specifically noted.

2015 Important Votes	Baker	Glazer
<b>Business</b>		
<b>AB 1230:</b> Provides loans to small businesses for compliance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.	For	For
<b>SB 588:</b> Allows the Labor Commissioner to place a lien on an employer that illegally withholds wages from an employee.	For	For
<b>Child Well Being</b>		
<b>AB 216:</b> Raises the legal age for smoking to 21 and prohibits minors from buying electronic cigarettes and anyone from smoking them where cigarettes are banned.	For	For

<b>2015 Important Votes, Child Well Being, continued</b>	<b>Baker</b>	<b>Glazer</b>
<b>SB 124:</b> Limits the use of solitary confinement for juveniles in prison. (* in committee).	*	For
<b>SB 277:</b> Requires that all children be vaccinated before entering public schools.	For	For
<b>Consumer Protection</b>		
<b>AB 1266:</b> Prohibits utility companies from passing on executive compensation in excess of \$1 million to utility customers.	Against	For
<b>SB 633:</b> Prohibits labeling any item “Made in the USA” if any part of it was made elsewhere.	For	For
<b>Education</b>		
<b>AB 329:</b> Authorizes comprehensive sex and HIV education in all public junior and senior high schools.	Against	For
<b>Employee Rights</b>		
<b>AB 359:</b> Requires retention of employees when a grocery store is sold.	Against	Against
<b>AB 622:</b> Limits use of the federal work eligibility list to the specific industries for which it was designed. (Makes more jobs available for immigrants.)	Against	For
<b>AB 662:</b> Requires changing rooms for disabled employees of both sexes.	Against	For
<b>AB 1354:</b> Requires companies doing business with the State to document salary equity among employees of different races and sexes performing comparable work (awaiting the Governor's signature).	Against	For
<b>Environment</b>		
<b>SB 350:</b> Requires energy providers to increase use of renewable energy sources to 50% by 2030.	For	For
<b>SB 673:</b> Creates a community oversight committee to recommend ways to improve enforcement of existing rules for handling toxic waste.	Against	For
<b>Immigration</b>		
<b>AB 60:</b> Amends CA Immigration Reform Law to include President Obama's Executive Actions on immigration.	Against	For
<b>AB 560:</b> Protects children from having their illegal immigrant status used against them in court actions unrelated to immigration.	Against	For
<b>SB 4:</b> Provides Medi-Cal coverage for undocumented children.	Against	For
<b>Social Well Being</b>		
<b>AB718:</b> Decriminalizes sleeping in a lawfully parked vehicle. (Puts an end to arresting homeless people and impounding their cars.)	Against	For
<b>AB 1461:</b> Automatic voter registration at the DMV. (Broadens voter demographics.)	Against	For
<b>Women's Issues</b>		
<b>AB 775:</b> Requires family planning and pregnancy service providers to inform clients about state-funded services other than abortion, as well as abortion services.	Against	For
<b>AB 1177:</b> Prohibits an abortion clinic from a requirement to enter into a written transfer agreement with a nearby hospital as a condition of licensure.	Against	For

## Voter Registration Meeting by Carol Weed

Join other volunteers interested in helping to register voters during 2016 at a **planning meeting on Friday, January 22, from 2–4 p.m. in MPR3**. Although our voter registration events will not likely start in earnest until April, we need to arrange contacts at various sites, make reservations, complete applications, conduct training sessions, and develop a consensus about our priorities.



This year we are doing something different; we are coordinating with other volunteer groups throughout Contra Costa to maximize outreach. We will be expanding our range since there are over 50 Rossmoorians who have expressed an interest—this includes both novices and the experienced.

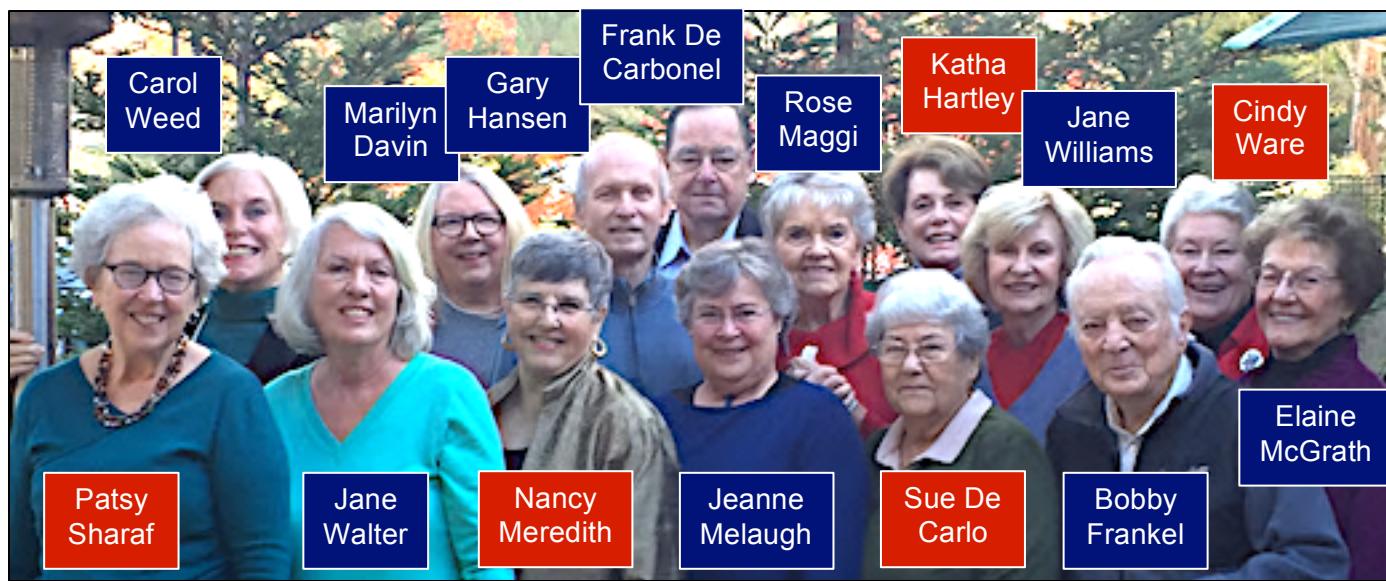
## Finances



Our club carefully budgeted expenses last year, so we're starting 2016 with a larger reserve than in the year before. Combined with our anticipated membership increase for 2016 (with no raise in membership dues!), we are well positioned to increase our election-year activities, including voter registration and get-out-the-vote drives.

<b>2016 Expense Budget</b>		<b>2016 Projected Receipts</b>	
Set ups, refreshments, activities, and catering	73%	Membership	41%
Speakers' fees	21%	Dinner receipts	53%
Publications and publicity	2%	Bank reserve	6%
General expenses and contingency	4%		
<i>Total</i>	100%		100%

## 2016 DoR Board of Directors



INFORMATION STATEMENT: *The Rossmoor Democrat*, newsletter of the Democrats of Rossmoor, is distributed six times annually to members and others expressing interest in *The Rossmoor Democrat*.

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Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.

## Upcoming Events

**January 4 Book Club:** *Tear Down This Myth*  
Gateway Multipurpose Room 2, 3 p.m.

**January 11 Film:** *The Rise of ISIS*  
Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

**January 12 State of the Union Viewing**  
Fireside Room, 5:30 p.m. Bring finger food.

**January 28 General Meeting:**  
Dan Jameyson—?  
Event Center, 6 p.m. social, 7 p.m. speaker

**January 30 Pre-endorsement Trip**  
Delegates meet at Gateway



**February 1 Book Club:** *The Prize*  
Gateway Multipurpose Room 2, 3 p.m.

**February 8 Film:** *The Rise of Hackers*  
Peacock Hall, 1 and 7 p.m.

**February 11 Democratic Debate**  
Fireside Room, 5:30 p.m. Bring finger food.

**February 25 General Meeting and Dinner:**  
Felicia Marcus at the Event Center, 5 p.m.  
social, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. speaker

**February 26–February 28 Dem. Convention**  
San Jose, see details online

## February 25 Dinner RSVP Form

### DEMOCRATS OF ROSSMOOR DINNER

**Thursday, February 25, 2016, in the Event Center**

**5 p.m. Social Hour — 6 p.m. Dinner — 7 p.m. Program**  
**Speaker Felicia Marcus**

#### Dinner Menu (*Catered by Creekside Grill*)

Salad: Bread and Chopped Romaine, Dried Cranberries, and Feta Cheese

Choice of Entrées: Medallions of Beef (Filet Tips) with Merlot Demi-Glace, Scalloped Potatoes, and Bluelake Green Beans & Button Mushrooms OR Vegetarian Option: Ricotta Cheese Ravioli with Alfredo Sauce & Shaved Parmesan and Roasted Butternut Squash

Dessert: Mini Cheesecakes with Fresh Berries and Raspberry Sauce and Decaf Coffee

Member Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée choices (circle one)    Medallions of Beef    **OR**    Ravioli

**Reserve by February 19. \$30 per person.** Total amount submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to *Democrats of Rossmoor*.

**Put this form and your check in an envelope, and either:**

- Mail to Jane Williams, 2200 Golden Rain Rd. #6, Walnut Creek 94595
- Or leave in the *Democrats of Rossmoor* mailbox at Gateway.